

IN THE CLAIMS

Amendments To The Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A lancet to be attached to a lancing apparatus for moving a lancing element in a lancing direction from a standby position toward a lance position, the lancet comprising:

a lancing element;

a first member including a to which the lancing element is fixed, the first member as a whole being movable in the lancing direction together with the lancing element and formed with an engaging portion; and

a second member movable relative to the first member and including a smaller cylindrical portion and a larger cylindrical portion, the smaller cylindrical portion being configured to accommodate a tip of the lancing element, the larger cylindrical portion being formed integral with the smaller cylindrical portion and greater in outer diameter than the smaller cylindrical portion, the larger cylindrical portion including an end accommodated in the engaging portion of the first member;

wherein when a load greater than a predetermined value is applied in a direction to cause the first member and the second member to approach each other, the first member is brought closer to the second member so that the tip of the lancing element is capable of projecting from the smaller cylindrical portion of the second member, whereas when the first member is brought away from the second member, the tip of the lancing element is accommodated in the second member without projecting from the smaller cylindrical portion of the second member.

2. (Original) The lancet according to claim 1, further comprising a fixer for fixing the second member to the first member when the second member accommodates the lancing element.

3. (Original) The lancet according to claim 2, wherein the fixer comprises a pair of projections which project at the first member in a direction crossing the lancing direction and which are spaced from each other in the lancing direction, and
an engagement portion provided at the second member to be held between the paired projections.
4. (Original) The lancet according to claim 3, wherein the pair of projections comprises a first projection and a second projection which is closer to the lance position than the first projection and which projects more than the first projection.
5. (Original) The lancet according to claim 4, wherein the second projection serves as a stopper for controlling the movement of the second member by engaging with the engagement portion of the second member when the second member moves relative to the first member in the lancing direction.
6. (Original) The lancet according to claim 3, wherein at least either of the pair of projections and the engagement portion is annular.
7. (Currently Amended) The lancet according to claim 3, ~~wherein the first member includes a hole for accommodating an end of the second member and allowing movement of the second member; and~~
wherein the paired projections are formed at an inner surface of the engaging portion of the first member hole.
8. (Currently Amended) The lancet according to claim 7, wherein the hole-engaging portion of the first member has a bottom surface serving as a stopper for controlling the movement of the second member by engaging with the engagement portion of the second member when the second member moves relative to the first member in a direction opposite to the lancing direction.

9. (Currently Amended) The lancet according to claim 7, wherein the first member includes ~~an additional a~~ hole communicating with the ~~above-mentioned hole cngaging~~ portion of the first member and extending in the lancing direction; and

wherein force is applicable to the second member in the lancing direction via the ~~additional hole~~.

10. (Previously Presented) The lancet according to claim 1, wherein the smaller cylindrical portion of the second member accommodates the tip of the lancing element in a hermetically sealed state and includes a portion to be penetrated by the tip of the lancing element when the first and the second members are moved to approach each other.

11. (Original) The lancet according to claim 10, wherein the portion to be penetrated is integrally formed with the second member.

12. (Previously Presented) The lancet according to claim 11, wherein the portion to be penetrated is provided at a position retreating, in a direction opposite to the lancing direction, from an end surface of the smaller cylindrical portion of the second member on a lancing direction side.

13. (Original) The lancet according to claim 10, wherein the portion to be penetrated is provided by a sheet member attached.

14. (Currently Amended) A lancing apparatus comprising:

a lancet that is movable in a lancing direction from a standby position toward a lance position, the lancet comprising a lancing element, a first member and a second member movable relative to the first member, the lancing element being fixed to the first member-including a lancing element so that the lancing element and the first member as a whole are movable together in the lancing direction, the first member being formed with an engaging portion, the second member including a smaller cylindrical portion and a larger cylindrical portion, the smaller cylindrical portion being configured to

accommodate a tip of the lancing element, the larger cylindrical portion being formed integral with the smaller cylindrical portion and greater in outer diameter than the smaller cylindrical portion, the larger cylindrical portion including an end accommodated in the engaging portion of the first member, wherein when a load greater than a predetermined value is applied in a direction to cause the first member and the second member to approach each other, the first member is brought closer to the second member so that the tip of the lancing element is capable of projecting from the smaller cylindrical portion of the second member, whereas when the first member is brought away from the second member, the tip of the lancing element is accommodated in the second member without projecting from the smaller cylindrical portion of the second member;

a lancet holder for holding the lancet, the lancet holder being movable in the lancing direction; and

a mover which is movable relative to the lancet holder for moving the second member relative to the first member in the lancing direction, and for causing the tip of the lancing element projecting from the smaller cylindrical portion of the second member to be brought into the second member to be accommodated therein.

15. (Original) The lancing apparatus according to claim 14, wherein the mover moves in the lancing direction to engage with the second member and moves the second member relative to the first member in the lancing direction, and thereafter pushes the lancet out of the lancet holder.

Claims 16-23. (Cancelled)

24. (New) The lancet according to claim 1, wherein the engaging portion of the first member comprises a hole.

25. (New) The lancet according to claim 24, wherein the hole is annular.

26. (New) The lancing apparatus according to claim 14, wherein the engaging portion of the first member comprises a hole.

27. (New) The lancing apparatus according to claim 26, wherein the hole is annular.

28. (New) A lancet to be attached to a lancing apparatus for moving a lancing element in a lancing direction from a standby position toward a lance position, the lancet comprising:

a first member including a lancing element; and

a second member movable relative to the first member and including a smaller cylindrical portion and a larger cylindrical portion, the smaller cylindrical portion being disposed forward of the larger cylindrical portion in the lancing direction and configured to accommodate a tip of the lancing element before a lancing action of the lancing element, the larger cylindrical portion being formed integral with the smaller cylindrical portion and greater in outer diameter than the smaller cylindrical portion; wherein when a load greater than a predetermined value is applied in a direction to cause the first member and the second member to approach each other, the first member is brought closer to the second member so that the tip of the lancing element is capable of projecting from the smaller cylindrical portion of the second member, whereas when the first member is brought away from the second member, the tip of the lancing element is accommodated in the second member without projecting from the smaller cylindrical portion of the second member.

29. (New) A lancing apparatus comprising:

a lancet that is movable in a lancing direction from a standby position toward a lance position, the lancet comprising a first member and a second member movable relative to the first member, the first member including a lancing element, the second member including a smaller cylindrical portion and a larger cylindrical portion, the smaller cylindrical portion being disposed forward of the larger cylindrical portion in the lancing direction and configured to accommodate a tip of the lancing element before a lancing action of the lancing element, the larger cylindrical portion being formed integral with the smaller cylindrical portion and greater in outer diameter than the smaller cylindrical portion, wherein when a load greater than a predetermined value is applied in a direction to cause the first member and the second member to approach each other, the

first member is brought closer to the second member so that the tip of the lancing element is capable of projecting from the smaller cylindrical portion of the second member, whereas when the first member is brought away from the second member, the tip of the lancing element is accommodated in the second member without projecting from the smaller cylindrical portion of the second member;

a lancet holder for holding the lancet, the lancet holder being movable in the lancing direction; and
a mover which is movable relative to the lancet holder for moving the second member relative to the first member in the lancing direction, and for causing the tip of the lancing element projecting from the smaller cylindrical portion of the second member to be brought into the second member to be accommodated therein.

30. (New) A lancet to be attached to a lancing apparatus for moving a lancing element in a lancing direction from a standby position toward a lance position, the lancet comprising:

a first member including a lancing element; and
a second member movable relative to the first member and including a smaller cylindrical portion and a larger cylindrical portion, the smaller cylindrical portion being configured to accommodate a tip of the lancing element, the larger cylindrical portion being formed integral with the smaller cylindrical portion and greater in outer diameter than the smaller cylindrical portion;

wherein when a load greater than a predetermined value is applied in a direction to cause the first member and the second member to approach each other, the first member is brought closer to the second member so that the tip of the lancing element is capable of projecting from the smaller cylindrical portion of the second member, whereas when the first member is brought away from the second member, the tip of the lancing element is accommodated in the second member without projecting from the smaller cylindrical portion of the second member,

wherein one of a latch mechanism, an electromagnetic mechanism, or a pneumatic mechanism is used for moving the lancing element in the lancing direction.